THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) During the period August, 1988 to January, 1989, 44.66% flights of Indian Airlines were delayed or cancelled as compared to 29.99% during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) The follwing steps have been taken in order to improve punctuality :—

(i) Overall utilisation of Boeing aircraft has been reduced so as to provide standby capacity at base stations.

(ii) Additional aircrafts have been leased from various sources.

(iii) Punctuality of flights has been constantly monitored at various levels.

National Tourism Board

141 SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to U.Q. 1798 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1988 and State:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism; if so, whether Government propose to set up a National Tourism Board, on the lines of the Railway Board, in order to give a boost to tourism and hotel industry in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that clearance of some Agencies/Departments have been accorded for the setting up of such a board; and

(c) if so, to what extent the tourism industry is likely to be benefited after the setting up of such a board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism have been examined and a number of them have been accepted. However, a final decision on the establishment of a National Tourism Board is yet to be taken in consultation with different Departments.

Discussion of SAARC Summit

142 SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what subjects were discussed at the summit of SAARC countries held at Islamabad held in December, 1988;

(b) whether the question of combating the menace of terrorism was also discussed;

(c) what are the results of these discussions and to what extent the meeting was successful;

(d) whether any new pacts were signed on the occasion for promoting regional cooperation among SAARC countries; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K K TEWARI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir,

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

At the Fourth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad from 29—31 December, 1988, the Heads of State or Government discussed a wide range of subjects concerning cooperation among the member countries following which the following major decisions were taken :

(i) Education was included as an area of cooperation and a Technical Committee set up to work out a programme of work in this area.

(ii) Specific projects for cooperation in the field of trade, manufactures and services, which are feasible immediately, are to be identified.

(iii) 1989 has been designated as the SAARC year for Combating Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking. Member countries are to launch a concerted campaign, as suited to the situations in their respective countries, to significantly augment their efforts to eliminate drug abuse and drug trafficking.

(iv) The possibility of a regional convention on Drug Control is to be explored.

(v) 1990 has been designated as the SAARC Year of the Girl Child.

(vi) South Asian Festivals are to be held from time to time India will host the first such festival.

(vii) Supreme Court judges and Members of Parliament of each member country will be able to travel to other member countries without visas.

(viii) A regional perspective plan called "SAARC 2000 : A Basic Needs Perspective" is to be drawn up. Each member State is to set development targets for the turn of the century in core areas of interest such as food, clothing, shelter education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. These would be consolidated into a regional perspective plan.

(ix) A proposal for the establishment of a Centre for Human Resource Development is to be considered.

(x) The comprehensive study on the environment and natural disasters undertaken by SAARC is to be completed in the shortest period of time. A joint study on the "Greenhouse Effect" and its impact on the region is to be undertaken.

(xi) The SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme is to emphasise social, economic and technical themes.

Indo-Pak Talks

143. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the outcome of the talks between the Prime Minister of India and Pakistan's during their meetings on the occasion of SAARC summit at Islamabad recently;

(b) what is Government's assessment about the new Pak Government's attitudes and policies to India on vital issues;

(c) whether Government perceive any changes in these policies of Pakistan in the light of recent happenings and what are Government's expectations in this regard and reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any follow up action has been taken by India and Pakistan to improve the relations after the Islamabad meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) to (d) Prime Minister's discussions with Ms Benazir Bhutto during his recent visit to Pakistan have opened up possibilities for establishment of an improved and mutually beneficial India-Pakistan relationship, based on sovereign equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Government have found Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's attitude on